

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher will describe the explanation about the research that consists of: background of the study, previous study, limitation, problem statements, objectives, underlying theories, research methods and research paper organization.

A. Background of the Study

Heart of Darkness is a novella written by Joseph Conrad. At first, it is serialized published in Blackwoods magazine in 1890 on February, March and April edition. Then, in 1902 it was compiled in a book, “*Youth: a Narrative, and Two other stories*” published in November 1902 by William Blackwood. *Heart of Darkness* got the 67th rank of Modern Library Top 100 English Novels of the 20th century. *Heart of Darkness* is a famous novel based on Joseph Conrad’s experience in Congo. It consists of 165 pages. It was published in 1902 and parted into three chapters.

Joseph Conrad was born as Jozef Konrad Korzeniowski on December, 3, 1857 from the couple Apollo Korzeniowski and Ewa in Berdyczow, Ukraine. He is a member of nobility who lived in a force of Russia. In 1861, their family isolated to the Vologda, north of Russia because of politic problem. Because the bad climates and condition, both his parents were contaminated tuberculosis virus, then, finally dead. His mother died in 1865 and his father in 1869. Because of that

condition, Conrad fostered by his uncle, Tadeusz Bobrowski, a landowner who lived in Crocow, Poland. For many years, he supported Conrad in material and moral.

The story opens with an unnamed narrator describing five men, apparently colleagues, on a boat anchored on The River Thames and the surrounding as dusk settles in and they await the turning of the tide. The narrator cites a passenger known as Charlie Marlow, the only one of the men who still followed the sea. Marlow makes a comment about London having been one of the dark places on earth, thus begins the story of Marlow and a job he took as captain of a steamship in Africa.

The *Roi des Belges*, the Belgian riverboat Conrad commanded on the upper Congo, 1889. He begins by ruminating on how Britain's image among Ancient Roman officials must have been similar to Africa's image among 19th century British officials. He describes how his dear aunt used many of her contacts to secure the job for him, calling him an emissary of light. When he arrives at the job, he encounters many men he dislikes as they strike him as untrustworthy. They speak often of a man named Kurtz, who has quite a reputation in many areas of expertise. He is somewhat of a rogue ivory collector, essentially a great musician, a journalist, a skilled painter and a universal genius.

Marlow arrives at the Central Station run by the Manager, an unwholesome conspiratorial character. He finds his steamship has been sunk and suspects the Manager of causing the accident, then spends three months waiting

for parts to repair it. There is rumor regarding Kurtz being ill, this makes the delays in repairing the ship all the more costly. Marlow gets the parts and he and the manager set out with a few agents and a crew of cannibals on a long, difficult voyage up the river.

Old Belgian river station on the Congo River, 1889 Marlow and the crew discover a hut with stacked firewood together with a note saying that the wood is for them but that they should approach cautiously. Shortly after the steamer has taken on the firewood old it is surrounded by a dense fog. When the fog clears, the ship is attacked by an unseen band of natives, who shoot arrows from the safety of the forest, killing one of crew. When they later reach Kurtz's station, they are met by a guileless Russian trader, the Harlequin, who assures them that everything is fine and informs them that he is the one who left the wood and the note. They find that Kurtz has persuaded the natives to treat him as a god, and led brutal raids in the surrounding territory in search of ivory.

Marlow and his crew take the ailing Kurtz aboard their ship and depart. Kurtz is lodged in Marlow's pilothouse and Marlow finds himself disappointed with Kurtz's childish schemes for fame and fortune. During this time, Kurtz gives Marlow a collection of papers and a photograph for safekeeping, as both had witnessed the Manager going through Kurtz's belongings. The photograph is of a beautiful woman whom Marlow assumes is Kurtz's love interest or as Marlow calls her his intended. One night Marlow happens upon Kurtz, obviously near death .As Marlow come closer with a candle, Kurtz seems to experience a

supreme moment of complete knowledge and speaks his last words: “The horror! The horror!” Marlow believes this to be Kurtz’s reflection on the events of his life. Marlow does not inform the Manager or any of the voyagers of Kurtz’s death, the news is instead broken by the Manager’s child – servant. Marlow later returns to his home city and is confronted by many people seeking things and ideas of Kurtz. Marlow meets Kurtz’s death, Marlow tells her that his last words were your name, and not “the horror! The horror!” The story concludes back on the boat on the Thames, with a description of how the river seemed to lead into the heart of an immense darkness.

The object of the research is a famous novel of that era. So, there are many reader’s responses of the novel. The first, in a speech in 1975, a writer Chinua Achebe from Nigeria criticized *Heart of Darkness*. He said that this novel was negated human side of Africa association, neglected language and their culture. The second response comes from Donny Sofyan a lecturer of English Literature. He said that he wants to describe the darkness of this novel. One of the darkness of this novel is the dark of prejudice, an image which becomes a social construction of woman. There is an impression that the woman was not kept an important role in *Heart of Darkness*. Along of his adventure, Marlow just met a few women and assumed that they were not same as him. He assumed that woman no more than an occupant of the world which was small and narrow.

There are many interesting things of the data. The first is that the story is a unique writing because there are narrations within narration. The second, the data is a reflection of the real experience of the author.

B. Previous Study

This research deals with some previous researches. There are many previous studies of this novel. But it has some differences in some matters.

The first research was conducted by Febrinan (Universitas Kristen Petra, 2012) entitled “Moral Values in Joseph Conrad’s Novel *Heart of Darkness*”. This research aims to describe the characterization of the characters in Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*. This research aims to analyze the moral values of Charlie Marlow and Mr. Kurtz as the main characters. It was described using a descriptive qualitative research.

The second research was conducted by Mikewati (Universitas Kristen Petra, 1991), entitled “The Reliability of Nick Carraway in the *Great Gatsby* and Marlow in *Heart of Darkness* as Narrators and Commentators, and Their Similarities as the Main Characters of the Novels”. This research aims to compare the character Nick Carraway and Marlow as a narrator commentator in the novel. It was described using a descriptive method.

The third research was conducted by Aninda (Universitas Kristen Petra, 2008), entitled “A Study of Psychological Conflict Underground by Joseph Conrad As The Main Character In Marlow’s Decision”. The researcher analyzed

the smartness and messages of the novel through Marlow as the main character. Descriptive research is used in this study.

The fourth is an essay by Syahpura (Akademi Maritim Indonesia, 2011) entitled “Hypocrisy of Imperialism in Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*”. The analysis focuses on the main themes, that hypocrisy of imperialism. Syahpura said that in this novel Conrad contradicts the common belief that imperialism is regarded as a glorious and worthy enterprise.

The fifth is an essay written by Anggraini (2000), entitled “The Imperialism Depicted in Joseph Conrad’s Novel *Heart of Darkness*”. The essay talks about the imperialism in the novel.

The sixth is an essay by Rosmarin (University of Texas, 1989) entitled “Darkening the Reader: Reader-Response Criticism and *Heart of Darkness*”. Her essay use contemporary criticism for criticizing the novel. It criticized the meaning of “darkness” in the novel. Darkness does not, by virtue of this reversal, turn into its opposite, into a perverse sort of whiteness that can now be relied upon. While it is true that dark men in this tale tend to behave in ways more moral and more civilized than do white men — virtually every critic notes, for example, that the near-starving cannibals on board keep their hungry eyes off their masters — darkness remains the place and mode of Marlow's terminal struggle with Kurtz. It also remains the term Marlow uses to phrase his most probing and, of course, permanently unanswered question about Kurtz and himself.

According to the previous studies above, the researcher concludes that there are similarities and difference among those studies. The similarity is the previous studies above also use descriptive method to write the study. The difference is the writer use difference approach to analyze the data.

C. Limitation

In this research, the writer focuses on the colonialism and racism in *Heart of Darkness* novel (1902) and it is post-colonialism perspective. Concerning with post-colonial approach, there are many problems to be analyzed, but in this research, the analysis is limited only on the colonialism and racism in *Heart of Darkness* novel (1902): a post-colonialism perspective.

D. Problems Statements and Objectives

The major problem statement of this research is “how is colonialism and racism in Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness* viewed from post-colonialism perspective.”

Based on the major problem statement above, the researcher formulates the following research questions:

1. What are the indicators of colonialism and racism?
2. How are colonialism and racism reflected in Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*?

3. Why does Joseph Conrad uncover the colonialism and racism in his *Heart of Darkness*?

Finally, based on the research question above, the writer formulates the following objectives:

1. To analyze the indicator of colonialism and racism.
2. To analyze colonialism and racism reflected in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.
3. To analyze why Joseph Conrad uncover the colonialism and racism in his *Heart of Darkness*.

E. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is projected to give novel contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly in the literary studies.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer and other students at UMS or other universities interested in literary studies.

F. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this study, the researcher applies descriptive qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using individual approach. The steps to conduct the research are as follows: 1) Determining the type of the study, 2) Determining the object of the study, 3) Determining data and data source, 4) Determining technique of data collection, and finally 5) Determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad which published at 1902.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data, namely primary and secondary data as follows:

a. Primary Data:

The primary data source is *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad which was published in 1902.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are books or any information related to the practice of the colonialism and racism.

4. Technique of Collecting Data

The techniques of data collection are as follows:

a. Reading the novel repeatedly.

- b. Taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category.
- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis.
- e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

5. Technique of Analyzing Data

In analyzing the data, the researcher applies a descriptive approach. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows: the first analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel. The second step is analyzing the data based on postcolonial perspective focus on the meaning of colonialism and racism.

In this sub, the researcher presents the theories that support the analysis of the data. In this part, the writer describes the post-colonialism perspective.

G. Research Paper Organization

The paper consists of five chapters and each of them is sub divided into sub sequent division. Chapter one is the introduction that consists of background of the study, previous study, problem of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, technique of collecting data, technique of analyzing data and paper organization. Chapter two is the underlying theory, namely

explaining about principle theory of personality. Chapter three is structural analysis; the researcher explains the structural elements of the story and discussion. Chapter four is data analysis; it presents basic principle of an individual psychological approach. This chapter represents the application of the underlying theory in which the novel is analyzed by means of post-colonialism. Finally, the last chapter integrates the overall discussion and brings it to the conclusion of the study.